John Kringler, Chair & Cropping Systems

- Private Applicator Pesticide Training was held at six sites, 186 producers were certified to buy and apply restricted use pesticides. Topics covered included: Pesticide Issues 2015, Weed of the Year (Palmer Amaranth), 2015 Herbicide Update, Weed Identification, Road Map for Managing Weed Resistance, Soybean Cyst Nematode Update for 2015, Pesticide Exposure and Weed Officer Update. The NDSU Extension Weed Control Guide, Disease Management Guide and Insect Management Guide for 2015 were distributed. Attendees were encouraged to consider using the NDSU Pest App available to download on Android or IPhone.

- The International SugarBeet Institute was held March 25 & 26 at the FargoDome. Speakers included Dr. Mark Seeley, Extension Climatologist U of Minnesota and Luther Markwart, Executive Vice President, American Sugarbeet Growers Association. There were 120 companies exhibiting products and equipment. I serve on the coordinating committee made up of Extension and Industry people.

Kelcey Hoffmann, Agriculture

- Cass County Soil Conservation held their annual “Ladies in Ag Night”, where I was able to present on NDSU Extension’s new program “Design Your Succession Plan”. Ladies from Cass County enjoyed a night out with great food, good company, and even took in some learning. Close to a 100 women the county that are active in agriculture attended this event and learned more about estate planning and transferring the farm onto the next generation. March was also busy spending time with producers wrapping up the last decision in the farm bill program and holding pesticide trainings.

Maxine J. Nordick, 4-H Youth Development

- Youth develop planning, organizing and presentation skills. There were 120 presentations and displays presented by youth, ages 5 – 18 in 20 different competitive categories at the 4-H Communication Arts & Project Expo Contests.

- 4-H members develop their confidence and social skills when participating in fundraisers. 4-H Carnival/Raffle is a county fundraiser with 4-H members selling close to 5,000 raffle tickets. 4-H clubs hosted carnival booth with the top booths, raffle ticket sellers and raffle winners recognized at the fundraiser. 4-H Fruit fundraiser provides club’s an opportunity to earn funds for their club treasury to cover cost of educational activities, workshop expenses, camps and other activities.

Monique Snelgrove, 4-H Youth After School Program

- 4-H school enrichment programs, like this soil erosion experiment, teach youth critical thinking skills through hands-on investigative activities. Eric Dahl, Watershed Coordinator for the Cass County Soil Conservation District, came to talk with students about real-world Cass county soil erosion practices. Students then applied this knowledge to design the most effective erosion control method for a simulation erosion experiment.
Sue Quamme, Parenting Resources

- March saw the wrap-up of winter parenting classes and the beginning of spring classes. The Parenting News listing spring classes, Child Abuse Prevention Month activities, and parenting information was delivered to approximately 3000 homes in the county and spring classes began filling up. Sue Quamme presented at JOBS at Job Service, Woodrow Wilson High School Teen Parenting classes and several Lunch and Learn lessons held at the local public libraries. Poison Look-A-Likes were presented at a “Baby Fair” at the public library which had about 160 attendees. Deign for Learning wrapped up with a session on evaluation and planning continued for Parent Resource Center Communication Camp and Annual Meeting as well as Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota Monthly promotions.

Michelle Strang, EFNEP/FNP Adult Nutrition Program

- March was a busy month for conferences. I attended the NDAND Public Policy Workshop/Conference in Bismarck, the Sanford Obesity Symposium in Fargo, and the EFNEP 5-year planning conference in Jamestown. In addition, I have been working closely with Megan to develop, plan, and promote the upcoming Cooking Matters courses starting April 10th.

Nikki Johnson, EFNEP/FNP Youth Nutrition Program

- This month I have continued working with eligible schools, introducing new nutrition concepts to kindergarten through third graders. I also spent a day in Jamestown working with fellow EFNEP colleagues formulating our 5-year plan. In addition, I attended several planning meetings with area agencies to organize new summer programming.

Todd Weinmann, Horticulture

- Kelcey Hoffman and myself taught composting to over 2,100 local 4th graders at the Living Ag Classroom.
- I taught Horticulture Container Gardening to 8 military veterans of Fargo/West Fargo’s Team Red White and Blue.
- For the Spring Fever Garden Forum, I facilitated, hosted the event and in addition presented on the Importance of Native Pollinators. Presentations were made before a live audience in Fargo and delivered to Extension Offices across the state and to participants online in their homes. I was told that numbers of participants for this event will be in next month. Youth in Cass County are able to sign up for a garden plot at McKinley Youth Gardens by contacting me. Spring weather is near and the horticulture calls are increasing.

Rita Ussatis, Food and Nutrition

- Sixty-one fifth grade students from Casselton participated in the five week series of “On the Move to Better Health”. Students indicated that they learned to select healthier snacks and signed a pledge to have at least one healthy snack a week.
- “On the Move to Better Health, Junior” is a five week pilot program for 2nd grade students. Thirty-five students from Casselton are participating and learning about the food groups on MyPlate.
- Diabetes Prevention Program continues with follow-up sessions and the beginning of another 16 weeks series. Results continue to show weight loss. One participant stated her A1C has dropped into normal range and was real excited because she is delaying diabetes and taking any medications due to diabetes.